HUNTED THE FOX AT "FOUR SQUARE"

For Fifty Years an Old Virginia Chase Has Been

GIANT OAK STANDING ALONE

Mr. Junius O. Thomas Remains of That First Memorable Chase.

The most important event that has happened in the United States from a foxhunter's point of view took place on last Monday at "Four Square," in Islo of Wight county, Va.

A half century of fox-Hunting by the same master of hounds, with a pack made up of the descendants of the original pack, and with grandsons riding in the place of their grandfathers of fifty years before, marked an occasion without parallel in the annals of sport in this country. The very hunting horns belonged to days of long ago, having been the property of

of long ago, having been the property of those sportsmen, long since dead, who rode and cheered the hounds in the days when the master of "Four Square" was but a boy, and the last century was in its middle age.

It was a privilege to witness the affection and esteem with which Mr. Thomas, the only surviving veteran of these bygone days, was treated by the sportsmen of to-day, and deservedly, for the 'squire of "Four Square" belongs to that excellent school that taught its pupils to

"Ride hard, shoot straight, And, aye, the truth to speak."

On last Monday Mr. Junius Octavius Thomas, of "Four Square," celebrated not only lifs seventy-first birthday, but his fiftleth anniversary of master of his own pack of fox-hounds.

Fifty years before, on attaining his majority, he gave a great house party at his ancestral estate of "Four Square," when the days were spent in chasing the willy fox and the nights were all too short to allow a proper discussion of horses, hounds and the glories of the chase.

Your after year, on February the 6th since the year 1855, have these reunions taken place, and one by one have those taken place, and one by one have those merry and honest sportsmen, of the original party been called to the "happy hunting grounds." Mr. Thomas, last of them all, called together his friends on last Monday and once again "Four Square" echoed with "the sound of the horn and the cry of the hound."

Braved the Weather.

ful few gathered to offer congratulations to Mr. Thomas.

Those who rode out with Mr. J. O. Thomas were his brother, Mr. R. S. Thomas: Mr. A. Libby, Mr. J. R. Jordan, Mr. Watson Jones, Mr. J. H. Holt, Mr. Allen Potts, of Richmond; Mr. E. Addlestein and Mr. Peyton Young.

A pack of forty picked hounds was unkennelled and away went the party to the estate of Four Square, led by the veteran of seventy-one years, who rode as lightly and sounded his horn as bravely as did the youngest member of the as did the youngest member of the

For six hours, through woods and field, over fences and across creeks and ditches, hounds led the field a merry pace, after

Not until night had begun to fall did hounds run into the fox, and then in an impassable marsh where riders could not

Back to "Four Square" rode the hunt-

Back to "Four Square" rode the hunters, then to meet a host of friends who had gathered to partake of "the 'squire's' generous hospitality.

Great log fires burned and crackled in the fireplaces, lighting up the fine old high-pitched rooms and warming the hearts of men who love sport for sport's sake, and who delight to tell the story of a famous run auther explaints. a famous run, or the exploits of a favorite hound. ... Mr. "Dick" Thomas, a young brother'

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call, the description of the court, by scribes as "an hundred cubits long, and Braved the Weather.

The day was cold and bleak, with falling sleet and flurries of snow, but no unfavorable conditions of weather could keep within doors the veteran fox-hunter and his friends on such an anniversary.

Early in the morning all Smithfield was awakened by the sound of horn and the deep-toned voice of hounds as the faithful few gathered to offer congratulations to Mr. Thomas.

"which licth four square and the length thereof is as great as the breadth," (Rev. 21, 16). It runs all through Nights wong and story, and though familiar with its literature, will, perhaps, recall many redurences of these expressive words. The heart of every Confederate soldler beats of the matchless commander of the army of Northern Virginia whose,

"Good gray head all men knew, ?"
That iron nerve to true occasion, true,
That tower of strength
That stood Four Square to all the winds
that blew."

This particular Four Square tract of land above spoken of, was devised by Anthony Mathews to James Baron, by will, bearing date of the sixth of May, 1681, and James Baron sold and conveyed it to Andrew Woodley, by deed bearing date on the twenty-third day of February, 1693, in the exact language of the patent to Anthony Mathews (Deed Book — p.—).

This Andrew Woodley came to this

This Andrew Woodley came to this a stout, hearited fox.

Scenting was poor, for the ground was all but frozen, and the hounds over-ran a score of times, only to be harked back and sail away once more on the difficult Little Neck, called Jones's (D. B. 1, p. 42).

Joseph Copeland.
The six hundred acres of land spoken

of the host, read a most interesting paper on "Fox Hunting and Four Square," which was greatly enjoyed by all present it is printed herewith.

Historic Four Square.

Mr. Thomas said:

On the first day of February, 1664, Anthony Mathows, for the importation of thirteen persons, obtained a patent for thirteen persons, obtained a patent for didirect persons, obtained a patent for did eares of land lying and being in the county of Isle of Wight, "beginning at a marked old oak, near the head of Carnes le's Swamp, on the west side of Edmund Pulmer's land, thence west, by morth 320 poles; thence cast, by south, 320 poles; thence couth, by west, 320 poles; thence couth, by west, 320 poles; thence off the did bridge, and Emmet Allman, now liveled the marked old tree.

As there are 440 acres in a square mile the above tract land sequired and has ever since retained the name of Four Square.

The iname is an ancient one. All of in the order of the court of Marc

A Liquid Vegetable Compound that takes the Place of Calomel

Contains no opiates, no mercury, no dangerous drugs or minerals of any kind. Acts promptly and easily. Manufactured by The Laxo Co., Durham, N. C.

Neck and beyond, and on the fourth of November, 1984, Watson Jones, (who'llves THALHIMER'S. on the old Glebe and courthouse tract). the tide was coming to and was more

than half-flood, when the water came to

than half-flood, when the water came to
the knees or our horses. At low tide
you can easily ford it dry shod.
On the minth of November, 1699, Edward Cobb conveyed to this Andrew
Woodley 292 acres of land in Little Neek,
which were patented by Nicholas Cobb,
on the twenty-first day of February, 1663,
(D. B. J. p. 296).
On the twenty-eight day of Auguist,
1765, Edward Champeon solf to Andrew
Woodley the balance of the 200 acres of
the Nicholas Cobb patent of June 17th,
1664, which had not been sold, to John
Manning, Thomas Davis, Thomas Took,
Richard Wooden, and the Jones place of
200 acres, above spoken c. (D. B. 1, p.
281).
On the second day of May, 1713, Andrew

200 acres, shove spoken C (D. B. 1, p. 28).

On the second day of May, 1713, Andrew Woodley and his son, Thomas, patented 400 acres of land in The Upper Parish of Nansemond, (D. B. 10, p. 75.)

On the 26th day of April. 1712. Andrew Woodley patented sixty acres of land in the same parish (D. B., p. 60).

On the twenty-fifth day of September, 1718, he by his will devised to his grandson, John Copeland, the land he bought of William Pope.

He probably owned other tracts of land, but the imperfect condition of the carly records of our county do not enable us to, ascertain easily, and identify them.

The Mansion House.

The Mansion House.

able us to, ascertain easily, and identify them.

The Mansion House.

His mansion house was in Little Neck on "ye land bought of Edward Champion and ye land I bought of Edward Cobb, both lying in one patent." (Will September 25th, 1718.

Little Neck lies between the two branches of the west branch of Pagin creek, about a mile and a half by water above the town of Smithfield, where is now the new county bridge. One of these branches runs up to an old mili seat known at different times as Little Mill, and Blair's Mill on the road from Paul Jones's to the James Edwards formerly, now the Leroy Veilines, tract of land, and the other branch runs up to what has recently been known as Wilson's Mill, or Factory pond, formerly Woodley's mill.

He was appointed by the county court of Isle of Wight county as surveyor in commission to run and mark the bounding line between Isle of Wight and Surry. Andrew Woodley, the immigrant, died between September the 25th, 1718, the date of his will, and the twenty-second of August 1726, when it was probated by John Woodley his executor, on the daths of Alexander Forbes, the rector of the Old Brick Church, and Thomas Wilson, who, with George Bell, were the witnesses to the will.

His will, besides his real estate and negroes, speaks of "his silver tankard that holds five pints" and "his surveying book and instruments" which he gives to his son Thomas, of "a silver cup that holds near a pint" that he silves to his frandson, John Copeland, and of his "chest of linens and woolens lately come from England," landed perhaps, at the lowest wharf on his land—the Dick Edwards landing before spoken of. His will demonstrates that he was a learned surveyor, and a skillful navigador—a great lover of the skillight navigador—a great lover of the skillight navigador—a great lover of the led god and silver with her. Much of this my mother saw in her youth, and played with as a child, and out of the wreck of it she gave the writer a gold pin-cushion which he still has, in the possession of his nicce, Mar

of Baltimore, On June the 5th., 1714, Andrew Woodley made a deed of gift to his son Thomas "of the 640 acres" known as Four Square which became his chief res-

This particular Four Square tract of land above spoken of, was devised by Anthony Mathews to James Baron, by will, bearing date of the sixth of May, 1881, and James Baron sold and conveyed it to Andrew Woodley, by deed bearing date on the twenty-third day of February, 1893, in the exact language of the patent to Anthony Mathews (Deed Book — p.—).

This Andrew Woodley came to this county as early, probably, as 1890, for on, the 14th day of September, 1891, he bought of Edward Cobb and Dorothy, his wife, two hundred acres of land, in Little Neck, called Jones's (D. B. I. p. 42).

Liked the Country.

He liked the county and determined to settle in it. Accordingly, we find an order of the court on the ninth of March, 1893, which says "these may notlfy that there is due to Mr. Andrew Woodley six hundred acres of land for the importation of himself four times; his wife and two sons, namely Henry and Thomas, and four negroes, namely Cowberry, Isabelia, Maria, and Jennie, Into this county, heigg legally proved in court."

He had two children that were bern after this period: John, who married Joseph Copeland.

The six hundred acres of land spoken.

The land two children that were bern after this period: John, who married Joseph Copeland.

The six hundred acres of land spoken.

The six hundred acres of land spoken. struments, one Fugal gun, one silver hilted sword, one bed and furniture, three leather chairs in the hall, and five silver spoons.

Following Four Square.

Following Four Square.

I cannot appropriately speak of his devises and bequests to his son Thomas, to his daughter, Martha, and to his grand-children, Willis Wilson and Mary Millier, for I am only tracing the history of the ownership of Four Square.

This John Woodley, last mentioned, the son of Thomas, married the widow. Catherine Bryant Boykin, the mother of the then infant, Francis Boykin, Under the management and control of this John Woodley the Four Square tract of land became enlarged, and this John Woodley by his bearing date on the 3d of February, 1791, devised it to his son, Andrew Woodley, with new boundaries, rew Woodley, with new boundaries "beginning at a corner tree Benjamin viz., "beginning at a corner tree Benjamin 'Chapman's thence a line of marked trees to: a corner tree near Constant Davis'; thence along a line of marked trees to a corner tree of Richard Casey's; thence along a line of marked trees that William Bradley surveyed to a corner tree in the little pecosin that William Badewin made, thence turning to the north running through the great pecosin by the gum pend, and when you get through the pocosin you leave following that line, then turning northwardly running down the edge of the pocosin to the first station."

station."

John Woodley gave two sens to the war of '76, Thomas and Henry, One died a prisoner of war in "the Black Hole" in London, and not in Calcutta, as has been generally believed, and the other was killed at the storming of Stony

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THALHIMER'S.

THALHIMER'S.

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Another shipment of spring's new styles in Suits, which comprises almost our entire first purchase of these handsome things, in Storm Serges, Scotch Mixtures and Manila Cloth. The styles are blouse effects and the many popular coat shapes. A special feature of these suits this year is the new styles in skirts-gathered, plaited, smock and the new gord

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tia in 1798 and was made major at a day (February 6, 1855). James M. Jordan,

tia in 1795 and was made major at a later day.

It was on the bench of magistrates in 1803, and was for a long number of years its residing justice. He was for a number of years the sheriff of the county. He restored the fortunes of the family to what they had been in the liey-day of his father, and extended in the field in the rear where his grandfather lived, where he, and his father, and our mother, were born, and ne built his house in 1807 as the bricks on the north chimney tell us.

My brother James F. Crocker, born in 1828 and, now the head of the house-informs me "that it was Andrew Woodley who laid out the yards, built the spaceous barns, smoke-houses, cabing for the servants and the many other out-houses. It was he who built his store and warehouse and shops of various industries that extended on the gaite that led to the barn-yards; which our mother said, looked in her day, "like a busy village." All of our Woodley ancestors were brainly and enterprising people—uniting culture with business—influential and useful in their, days, built the his proper many and enterprising people—uniting culture with business—influential and useful in their days, built the his proper with the many of the culture with business—influential and useful in their days, built the his proper with the day of the gaite that led to the barn-yards; which cur grandfather. Andrew Woodley, excelled them all. We have no idea of how great a man he was in the business and public affairs of the county. His ability and will-power dominated. It he writer have often heard the late of the was the forth, and her brother Thomas, was the seventh. The eleventh and youngest, was Rehard Samuel and youngest, was really enlarged by the landed estate of her father extended from where Turner S. Reynolds mow lives the forther of your wife, beneath the first part of the f

S. P. Young give many instances of of tile dominating instances of of tile dominating instances of of tile dominating instances of of the development of the property of the server of the property on the jet of January. 1851, and form and in least the property on the jet of January. 1851, and form and in least the property on the jet of January. 1851, and form the least of the search on the ways for the more of the property on the jet of January. 1851, and is known to the property on the jet of January. 1851, and is known to the property on the jet of January. 1851, and the ways in the late of Land.

His Love of La

station."

John Woodley gave two sons to the war of '78. Thomas and Henry, One died a prisoner of war in "the Black Hole" in London, and not in Calcutta, as has been generally believed, and the other was killed at the storming of Story Point.

The fortune of John Woodley was seriously impaired by that war. When the British troops passed through the country, Andrew, who was then a youth, was sent with the cattle and horses into the depths of the pocosin, but the price of the pocosin, but the price of the port of the process of 185 have grown into a compact being of brandy that were secreted becautiful fine floor of the port, and the family sliver that was hidden beneath the grown and carried away.

John Woodley gave to bits son Samuel Woodley "the romanting part of his land which is not included in the bounds mentioned to his son Andrew Woodley."

He lived where W. A. Edwards now lives, and was said to be the handsomest and best dressed bachelor in the county woodley was house. And the woodley in his way ancestor on either side of his house.

This Major Andrew Woodley was born on the twenty-saventh day of April, 176, married Elizabeth Hill Harrison November 20th, 1859.

Was a Noted Man.

This Major Andrew Woodley was born on the twenty-saventh day of April, 176, married Elizabeth Hill Harrison November 20th, 1859.

Was a Commissioned captain in the felicy of the saventh of Virginia Military in the first were present on that the results of the mandsomest and beast dressed bachelor in the found that the has not been excelled in an appear read by John W. Gentley and the twenty-saventh day of April, 1769, married Elizabeth Hill Harrison November 20th, 1859.

He was a commissioned captain in the found of the first of the fi

brother, who died in 1898 (both sons of ly habit when the war, sickness and the brother, who died in 1898 (both sons of W. P. Jordan, who became your brothers-in-law in Navember, 1855); Dr. Thomas J. Cheatham, who died in Chesterfield, his native county, in 1901; John Gregory, his brother-in-law, who is also dead; C. C. Chaimers, who died in 1893; John D. Chalmers, who died in 1893; John D. Chalmers, his brother, who died in 1898; R. H. Latimer, who died in 1803; Berbin Jones, who died in 1875; Simon Adkins, who died in 1873; B. J. Gray, brother of J. W. Gray, who died in 1886; William M. Crocker, your nearest neighbor, who died in 1869; John P. Thomas, who died in 1872; Abram Vellines, who died in 1885; Edwin Bunkley, who died in 1887, and John W. Gray, himself, who died on the 15th day of September, 1904.

They are all with you to-day.

From that paper, and otherwise, we lave learned that it has been your yearweather did not prevent, to give a foxhunt at Four Square, and we are gathered here to-day, at your ancestral home, which here to-day, at your ancestral home, which since 1603 has not been out of your family, to celebrate your fiftleth anniversary of your majority, to congratulate you upon your long and useful life, and to wish you many years yet, of health, happiness and prosperity.

Love Sport and Work.

who, died in 1873; B. J. Gray, brother of J. W. Gray, who died in 1885; William M. Grocker, your nearest neighbor, who died in 1860; John P. Thomas, who died in 1872; Abram Veilines, who died in 1887, and John W. Gray, himself, who died on the 15th day of September, 1904.

And thus you, my brother, are left the sole survivor or that celebrated fox hunt of fifty years ago, which continued for two or three days.

Men of Noble Mould.

From that paper we learn that James M. Jordan, the "big Jim," of his day, was a satunch Demograt, a veteran polytone for the state of the saddle till 10 clock at night, resting only for dinner, is of uncommon stamina.

No Jordan, the "big Jim," of his day, was a satunch Demograt, a veteran polytone for deposition of the propagation of

Fox-hunting has been to you only a diversion. It has been to you only what the violin was to Luther; the fluto to Goldsmith, the organ to Milton, the mathematical problem to Brougham, the axe to Gladstone and the rod to Watson. All men, of all times, have loved the chase. The wilder the game, the greater the excitement.

Go, one of you, find out the forester; For now our observation is performed. And since we have the van ward of the

And since we have the van ward of the day.

My love shall hear the music of my hounds.

Uncouple in the western valley; go.

Dispatch, I say, and find the forester.

We will, fair Queen, up to the mountain

And mark the musical confusion Of hound and echo. in conjune

To which Hippolita, with enthusiasm, replied:
I with with Hercules, and Cadmus once When in a wood of Crete they bay'd the bear
With hounds of Sparta; never did I hear Such gallant chiding; for, besides the groves.

groves. The skies, the featitains, every region

Seemed all one mutual cry; I never bear

J. Waverly Thomas, and R. S. Thomas, So musical a discord; such sweet thur

And Theseus fond of the strain of his hounds rejoined: My hounds are bred of Spartan kind, So flow'd, so sanded; and their heads are With ears that sweep away the morning

Crooked-kneed, and dew lap'd like Thes Slow in pursuit, but matched in mouth

in Crete, in Sparta, nor in Thessaly. So All the World Over. As it was in the woods near Atlens, so it was in the forests near Padua. The Lord bade his huntsman to—

"Couple Chowder with the deep mouth'd bitch (Merriman) and asked him Saw'st thou not, boy; how Sliver made it

good
At the hedge corner in the coldest fault?"
To which the huntsman replied:
Why Belman is as good a dog as he, my

He cried upon it at the morest loss And twice to-day picked up the dullest scent.
Trust me, I take him for the better dog.
Lord-Thou are a fool; If Echo were as
feet
I would esteem him worth a dozen such.
But sup them well, and look unto them

To-morrow I intend to hunt again

Why the withered and gray hair

like a tree dying at the top? XANTHINE

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